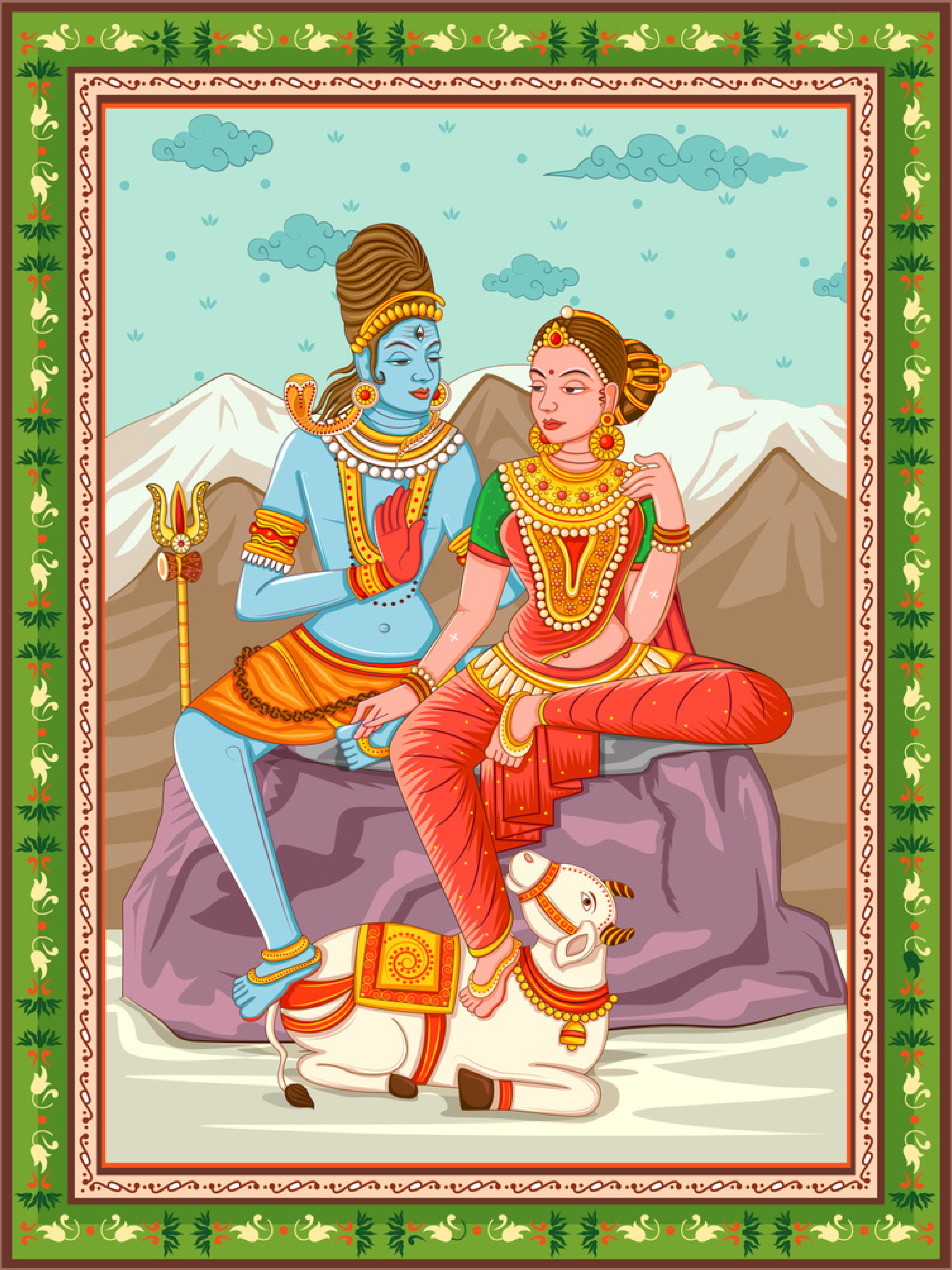
A TO Z INDIA

July 2020 • Volume 03 • Issue 12
English & Tamil Monthly Magazine
Price Rs 65/-

12 KAILASANATHA TEMPLE KANCHEEPURAM

✒ INDIRA SRIVATSA

Indian Culture ● Indian Art ● Indian Lifestyle ● Indian Religion



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EDITORIAL: JULY MEANING & SYMBOLISM
As with most other months, July was named by the ancient Romans. However, it is somewhat unique in that it is not named after a god or goddess. By contrast, the Roman Senate named this month after General Julius Caesar, as he was born during this month.

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A short story about Swami Vivekananda and his good advise.

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KANCHEEPURAM: KAILASANATHA TEMPLE
Beautiful and mystifying images captured from the ancient historical temple city. Kancheepuram is famous for ancient temples.

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A vintage floral artwork which portrays Lord Vishnu.

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FROM THE EDITOR

A TO Z INDIA magazine covers the Indian through his art, culture, lifestyle, religion, etc. This magazine gives an insight into the life of Indians from an angle uncovered by others. Turn to find out what it is about and to immerse yourself into an entirely different culture.

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Editorial:
July Meaning & Symbolism

✒ Indira Srivatsa

Sunny July symbolic meaning signifies summer and all of its radiant glory in the Northern Hemisphere. As a child, school is now out and the long days of light are filled with outdoor play, swimming, and all sorts of fun. Summer is a time for outdoor parties and activities, as well as vacations to the beach.

The warm temperatures that we experience in July provide us with the weather conditions we need to reconnect with nature. In fact, July reports as the warmest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. People take this opportunity to go hiking, camping, and swimming at the beach. By contrast, in the Southern Hemisphere, July equates to January (the coldest month of the year) and the middle of winter in the North.

Editorial: July Meaning & Symbolism

✒ Indira Srivatsa

July is a month for reflection and meditation in the middle of cold, dark winter. Although many countries have holidays unique and specific to them during this month, July is more of a celebration of the season. As such, its symbolism is vast.

》 July Symbolic Meanings:

As with most other months, July was named by the ancient Romans. However, it is somewhat unique in that it is not named after a god or goddess. By contrast, the Roman Senate named this month after General Julius Caesar, as he was born during this month.

Editorial:
July Meaning & Symbolism

✒ Indira Srivatsa

Before him and his famed escapades, July was actually called "Quintilis". This was Latin for "fifth"- July was the fifth month in the ten month calendar before January and February were added by Numa Pompilius in 713 B.C.. Until then, the month was governed by the Roman deity Jupiter, god of light and sky. This makes perfect sense, as the days of July are ripe with day light.

》Birthstone Symbolic Of July:

Ruby:

People born in July can claim the ruby as their birthstone. This fits in with the theme of regality and boldness. However, the ruby is also connected with contentment and joy. These feelings are synonymous with summer, making this semi-precious ruby stone perfect as a sign of July.

Editorial:
July Meaning & Symbolism

✒ **Indira Srivatsa**

》 **Flowers Associated With July Symbolism:**

Although the temperatures are sizzling hot, flowers are still in full bloom during this month – as long as it rains enough, of course. July is symbolized by two beautiful flowers: the Larkspur and the Water Lily.

Indira Srivatsa

Editor - A TO Z INDIA
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Micro Story, Excitement: Just for leisure and mind refresh

✒ **Ramesh**

Once, Swami Vivekananda was climbing the Himalayan Mountain to reach a temple situated at the top of it. It was a long path. He encountered an old man who was sitting at the side of the pathway. He looked very tired.

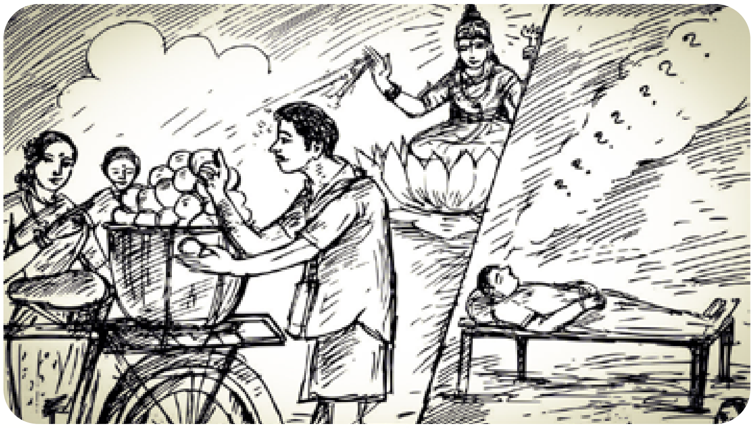
The old man told the saint that the pathway was very long. It was very hard for him to finish and he was unable to move even a step forward. His heart was trembling.

Swami Vivekananda listened patiently to what the old man said. He told the old man to look below the pathway that he has crossed. He asked him to 'Be Proud'. He asked him to climb futher up so that the remaining path will also come under his feet.

Hearing this, the old man got energised. He started to climb along with Swami Vivekananda.

திருக்குறள், ஆள்வினையுடைமை: சிந்தித்து பார்ப்பதற்காக

✒ இந்திரா ஸ்ரீவத்ஸா



ஆள்வினையுடைமை:

பொருட்பால் - அதிகாரம் 62 - பாடல் 7

மடியுளாள் மாமுகடி என்ப மடியிலான்
தாளுளான் தாமரையி னாள்.

》விளக்கம்:

சோம்பல் இல்லாதவனின் முயற்சியிலே தாமரையாளான திருமகள் சென்று வாழ்வாள்; சோம்பலிலே கருநிறம் உடைய மூதேவிதான் சென்று வாழ்வாள்

》உவமை:

ஸ்ரீதேவியும் மூதேவியும் — (திருக்குறள் உவமைகள்).

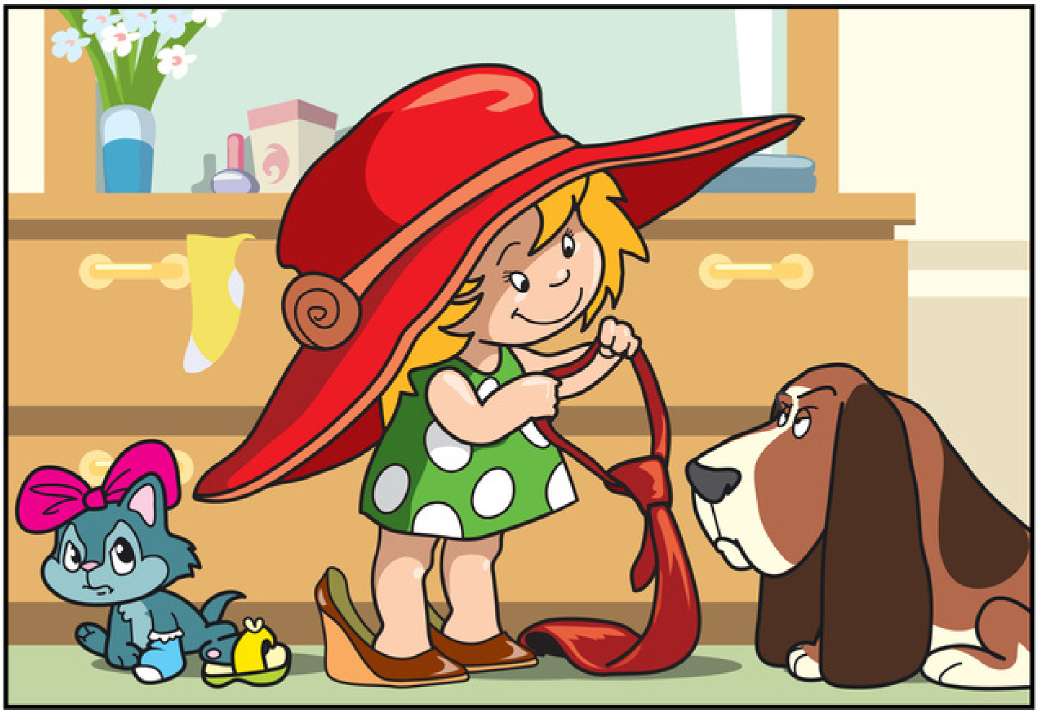
முயற்சி உள்ளவனிடம் வளர்ச்சி இருக்கும். சோம்பல் உள்ளவனிடம் வளர்ச்சி குன்றும். வாழ்வில் முன்னேறி இருப்பவன் முயற்சி உடையவன். கீழ்நிலை உடையவன் சோம்பல் உடையவன். அதுபோல், வறுமையையும், செல்வத்தையும் உணர்த்த, முறையே மூதேவி, ஸ்ரீதேவி என்று பெரியோர் கூறுவர். அதாவது "சோம்பல் உடையவன் தலையிலே மூதேவி குடியிருக்கிறாள். முயற்சி உடையவன் காலிலே சீதேவி அமர்ந்து இருக்கிறாள்" என்பார்கள்.

(ஸ்ரீதேவியை, திருமகள், தாமரையினாள் லட்சுமி என்றும் கூறுவார்கள்.)

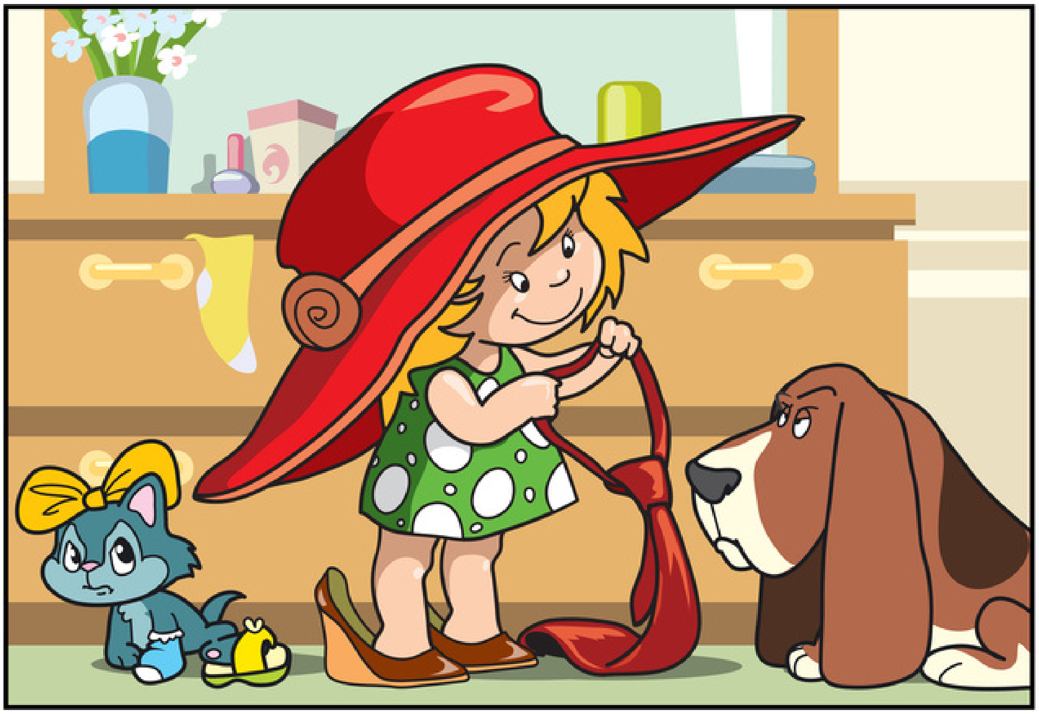
● Tuesday, 25 February
Ramakrishna Paramahansa Jayanti 2020

Timepass Corner: Spot the Difference (10 Differences)

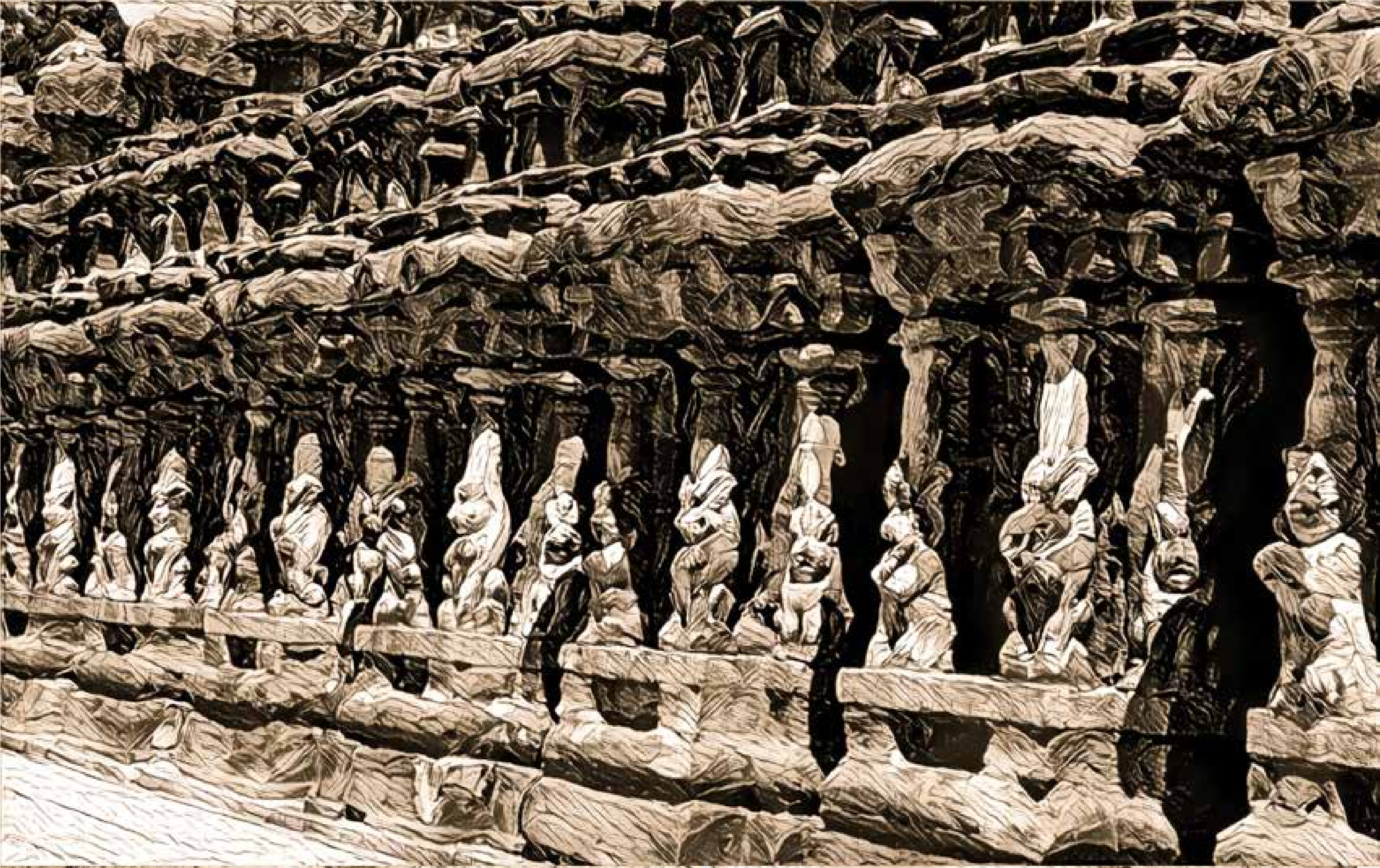
✒ Gomathy

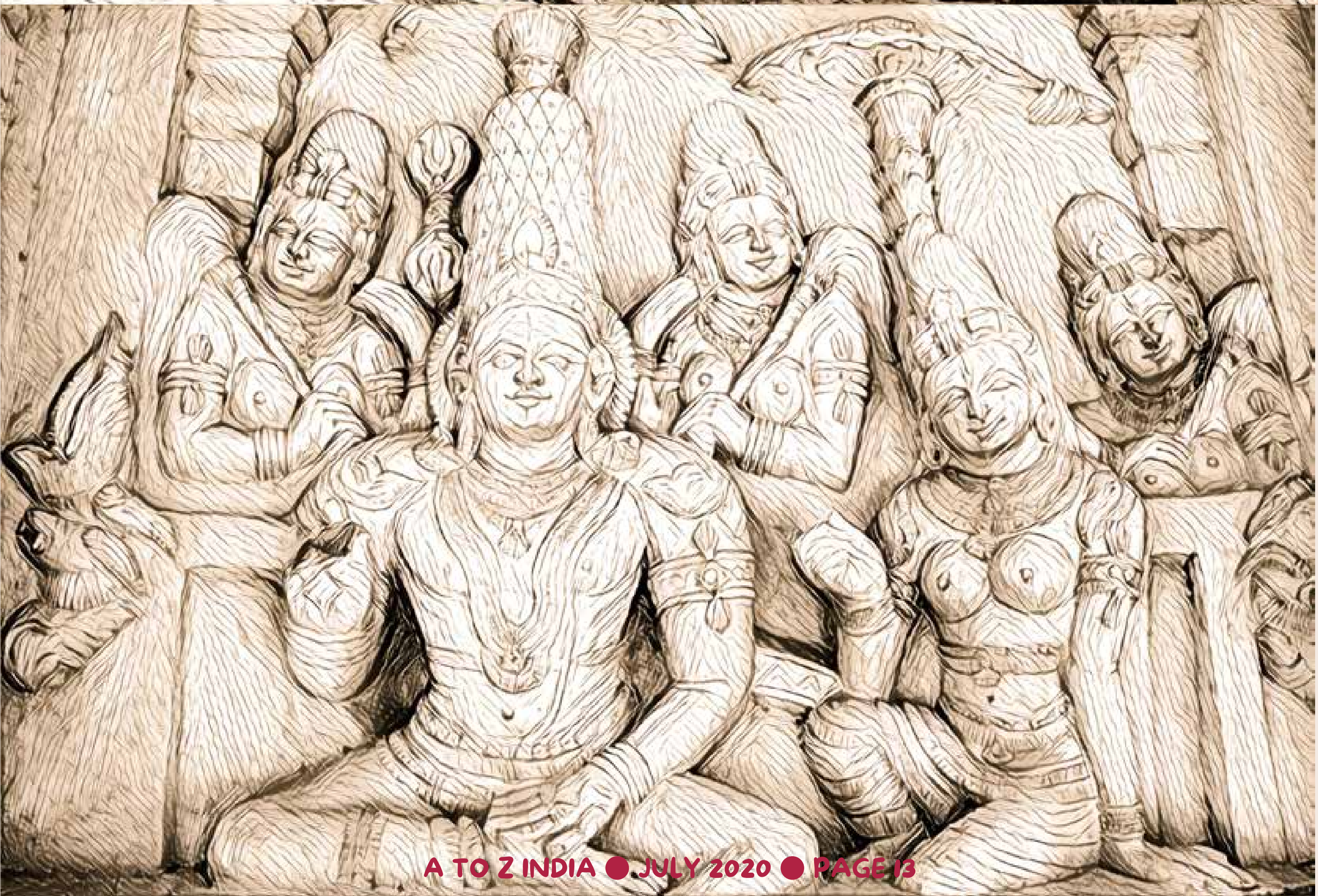


Find 10 differences



Kailasanatha Temple Kancheepuram





Dandiya
- Indian Classical Dance

✒ Chandra

Dandiya
- Indian Classical Dance

✒ Chandra

Dandiya - Indian Classical Dance

✒ Chandra

》 Dandiya Dance at Navratri:

'Dandiya' or 'Dandiya Raas' is a dance form performed during the time of Navratri, with its origins in Gujarat. The dance attire comprises of bamboo sticks painted in bright colors, women are dressed in three-piece attires called chaniya choli with bandhni dupattas, while men wear sherwani or kurta pyjama. The performers strike the wooden sticks in rhythmic beats, and a drummer standing in the center of the circle commands the rhythm of the dance. People assemble in two circular formations, with the inner circle moving in a clockwise direction, and the other circle moving in the opposite direction. Though often clubbed with another dance form called 'Garba', it differs from Garba. The celebrations start after the performance of the ritual of 'aarti', whereas Garba is performed prior to it.

》 Origin & History:

Originally performed in honor of Goddess Durga, the dance form represents a battle between the demon Mahishasura and the Goddess. Another legend states that the dance form originated from Krishna & Radha's 'raas leela', hence the name 'Dandiya Raas'. Also, it was earlier performed only by men, who sometimes used swords instead of sticks in the dance performance.

✒ Chandra

Humour Zone: Laugh Laugh!

》 Person A: Why have you folded the paper and kept it on the table?
Person B: Didn't you tell me to shorten my writing, open and see, the paper is short!

》 Maari: My friend has lost his 'Nanayam'.
Roshan: Then what happened?
Maari: I found it on the floor and gave it to him!

》 Gupta: Why have you put mask to your hen?
Gaurav: To prevent it from getting bird flu!

✒ Chandra

Humour Zone: Laugh Laugh!

》 Mother: I asked you to buy Big Onions, why did you buy small Onions?
Son: Because, it is difficult to peel the skin of small Onions!

》 Person A: If you knock the door of a house where a person sleeping, will he open the door or window first?
Person B: Door!
Person A: No, he will open his eyes first!

》 Person A: In my dreams, while I was watch the cellphones it suddenly got switched off!
Person B: You wouldn't have charged it!

Cuisine of Kerala: Traditional Kerala Food & Dishes

✒ Sankar

》 Top 10 foods to try in Kerala:
This Southern region of India is a haven of tranquil backwaters, serene beaches, exotic wildlife and lush mountains. It's also home to its own unique and colourful cuisine...

Foreign influence on the cuisine of Kerala is marked, with each religion from Muslims to Syrian Christians developing their own cuisine and style of preparation. The Moplah cuisine of the Malabar region has a distinct flavour, borrowed from the traders who regularly visited the region. Kerala cuisine has an abundance of coconut, rice, tapioca and spices like black pepper, cloves, cinnamon and ginger. The Portuguese introduced cassava, now widely eaten in Kerala. The region is also famous for its Sadhya, served at the Hindu festival Onam and consisting of boiled rice and a host of vegetarian dishes on a banana leaf. Kerala cuisine also features a lot of sea food like fish, prawns, mussels and crabs because of its long coastline.

Cuisine of Kerala: Traditional Kerala Food & Dishes

✒ Sankar

Don't leave Kerala without trying...

》Puttu and kadala curry:

This is a breakfast staple eaten all over the state. Puttu is a cylindrical steamed rice cake cooked in a mould with grated coconut. It's usually served with kadala curry, a dish of black chickpeas made with shallots, spices and coconut milk, that can also be served with ripe bananas and grated coconut.

》Appam with stew:

Appam is a Keralan staple made from fermented rice flour and coconut milk. It's similar to a thin pancake with crispy edges. These crepe-like bowls are made from fermented rice flour, coconut milk, coconut water and a little sugar. Ishtu or stew is a derivative of the European stew and consists of coconut milk, cinnamon, cloves and shallots, eaten with appams. The stew may also feature mango pieces, vegetables, chicken or lamb. The addition of aromatic whole spices, ginger and fresh coconut milk enhance the natural flavor of the vegetables. The crucial ingredient is fresh coconut milk, which lends a sweet flavor.

Cuisine of Kerala: Traditional Kerala Food & Dishes

✒ Sankar

》Erissery or pumpkin and lentil curry:
This is a popular curry in Kerala, made from either raw plantains or sliced yams. It also usually includes slightly sweet pumpkin that has been boiled in water with salt, chillies or pepper, dried lentils, grated coconut, turmeric powder, cumin seeds and garlic, served on a bed of rice. It appears on most menus at religious festivals like Onam.

》Palada payasam (dessert):
A sweet rice kheer prepared with palada is a delicacy made in almost all Kerala households during the festival of Onam and many other special occasions. There are many variations of it, however, the traditional recipe uses only basic ingredients like rice ada, milk, sugar and ghee. Rice ada is easily available in Indian Kerala grocery stores.

》Thalassery biriyani:
A rice biriyani is the most common dish of the Muslim community. Thalassery sea port was a centre for the export of spices where European, Arab and Malabar cultures came together and influenced the cuisine. Thalassery biriyani uses a unique, fragrant, small-grained, thin rice variety named kaima. The biriyani masala and cooked rice are arranged in layers inside the dish. Meat is cooked with the masala on a low heat and layered with rice before the lid of the container is sealed with dough. Hot coal or charcoal is then placed above the lid.

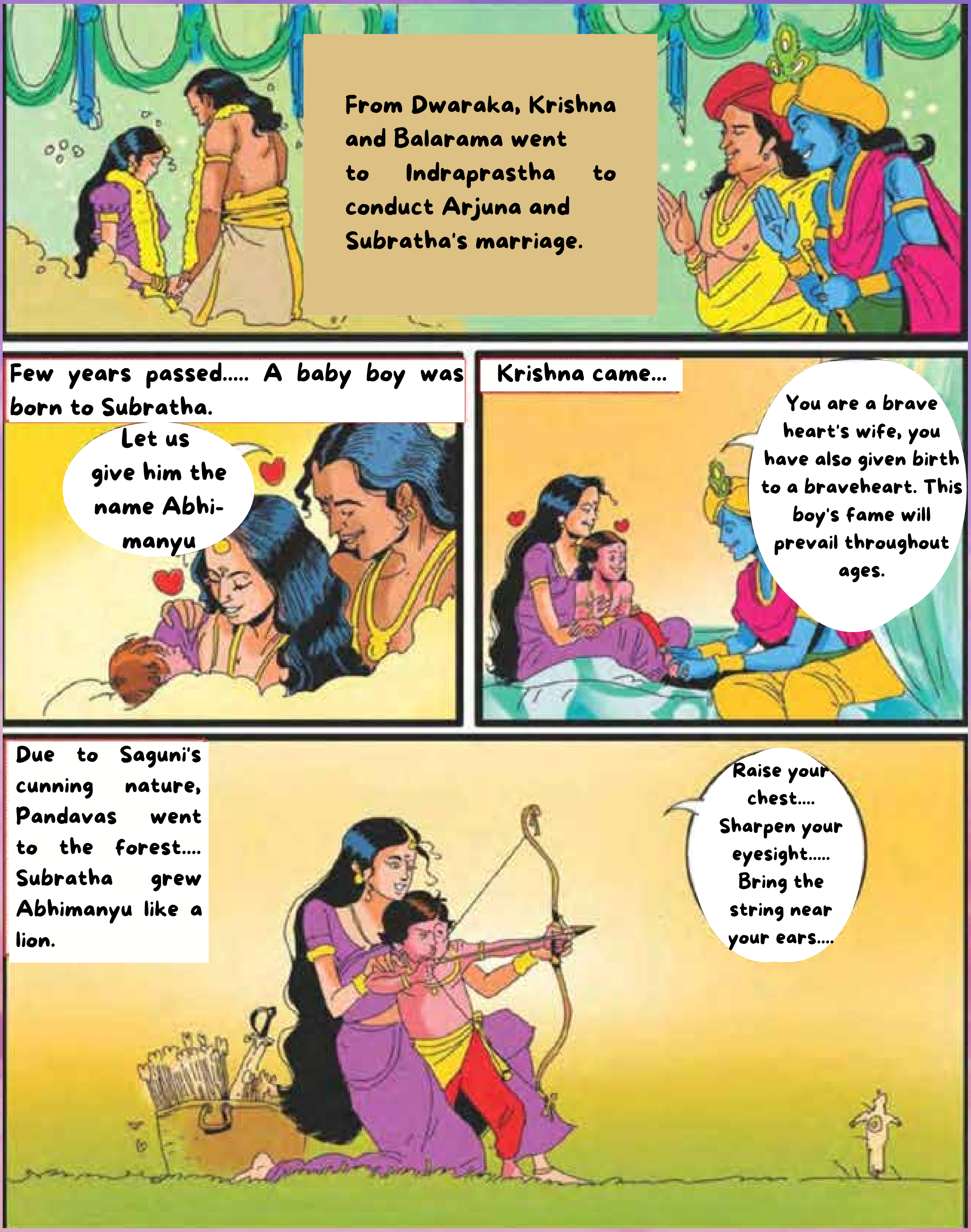
》Fish moilee:
A famous Keralan fish stew made with coconut milk, which is a typical Syrian Christian delicacy. The curry is usually prepared in a traditional manchatti (earthen vessel) and stews lightly fried fish in coconut milk, and spices like turmeric, pepper, cinnamon and cloves along with fresh green chillies to give it a tangy taste. The fish (usually kingfish or seer fish) is marinated with oil, turmeric, red chili powder, lemon juice and salt for 30 minutes before being used in the curry.

》Banana fritters (dessert):
Pazham pori or Ethakka appam are juicy banana fritters tha feature as a traditional tea time snack. They're available throughout Kerala and are simply ripe bananas coated with plain flour and deep-fried in oil.

Have you sampled authentic South Indian cuisine? We'd love to hear you!

Short Story: Abhimanyu

✒ Ramesh



Short Story: Abhimanyu

✒ Ramesh

Short Story: Abhimanyu

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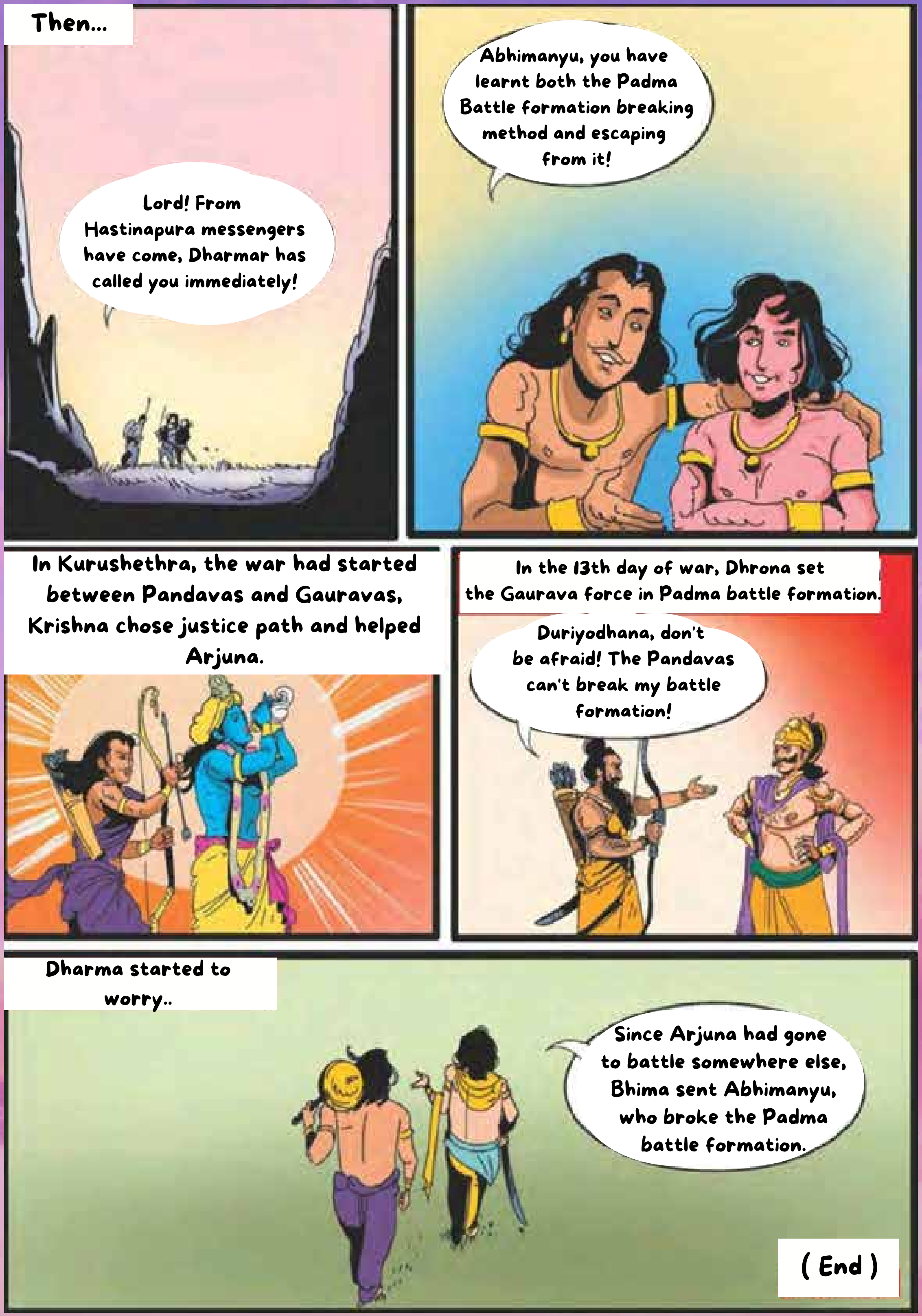
Short Story: Abhimanyu

✒ Ramesh

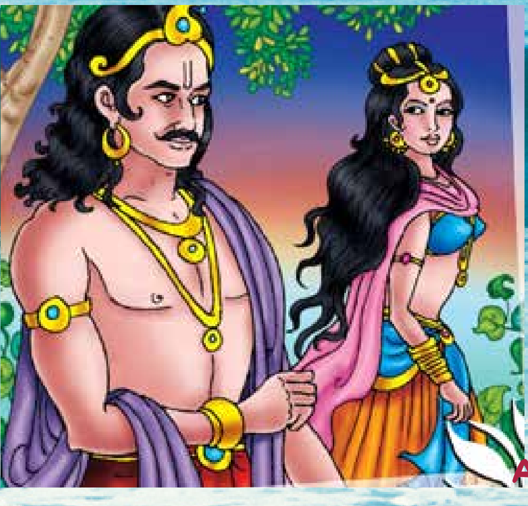


அசோகாவின் கதை: சிறுவர்களின் சிறப்பு பக்கம்

✒ சம்பத்

அசோகா ஒரு சிறந்த மௌரிய அரசன். கி.மு. 304ல் அசோகா பிறந்தபோது அவன் தந்தை பிந்துசாரா தன் மனைவியிடம் "ஒரு நாள் அசோகா ஒரு சிறந்த அரசனாவான்" என்று வாழ்த்தினார்.

அசோகா மிகவும் குறும்புக்கார, புத்திசாலியான குழந்தை.



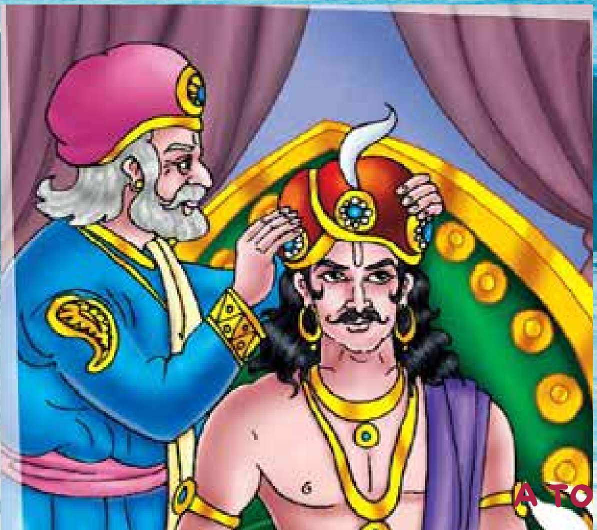
அசோகா அவந்திகா நாட்டின் ஆளுநராக நியமிக்கப்பட்டார். அங்கு ஷகியாகுமாரியிடம் அன்பு கொண்டான்.

அசோகாவின் கதை: சிறுவர்களின் சிறப்பு பக்கம்

✒ சம்பத்

வெகு விரைவில் திருமணம் நடந்தது. பெரியவர்கள் அவர்களை வாழ்த்தினர். ஐந்து குழந்தைகள் பிறந்தன.

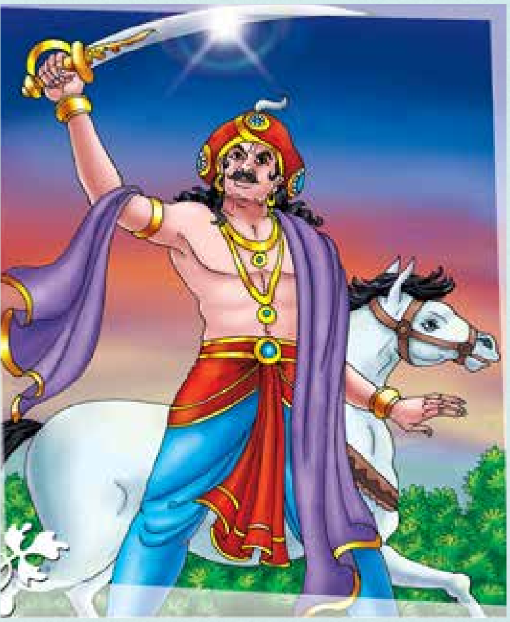
பிந்துசாரா உடல் நலம் குன்றினார். அசோகாவிடம் அரசராக வேண்டினார். உயிர் நீத்தார்.



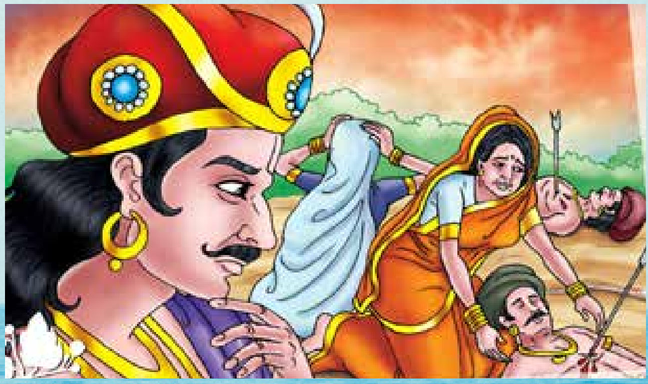
பிறகு அசோகா மகதாவின் அரசராக பட்டம் சூட்டப் பெற்றார்.

அசோகாவின் கதை: சிறுவர்களின் சிறப்பு பக்கம்

✒ சம்பத்



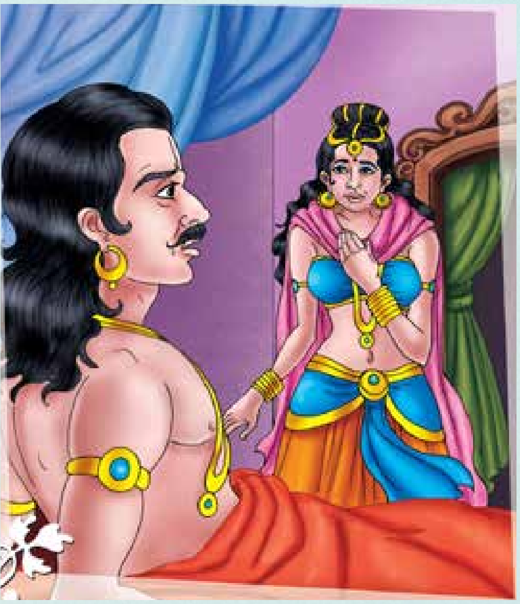
அசோகா பல போர்களை வென்று, மக்களுக்கு பிடித்த அரசனானார். கலிங்கா போர் தொடுப்பதை அறிந்த அசோகா போர் புரிந்து வெற்றி பெற்றார்.



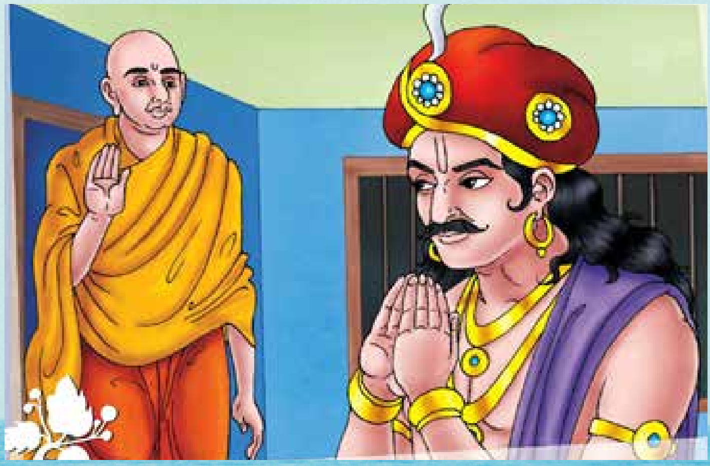
அசோகா கலிங்கா போரினால் மகிழ்ச்சி அடையவில்லை. நிறைய உயிர்ச்சேதங்களை கண்டதால் மன உளைச்சலுக்கு ஆளானார்.

அசோகாவின் கதை: சிறுவர்களின் சிறப்பு பக்கம்

✒ சம்பத்



தன் மனைவியிடம் சென்று தன் வருத்தத்தை தெரிவித்தார். அவள் ஆறுதல் சொன்னாள். அவர் இனி போர்புரிய மாட்டேன் என சபதம் செய்தார். புத்தரின் சீடரான உதகுப்தாவின் போதனையில் மன நிம்மதி பெற்றார்.



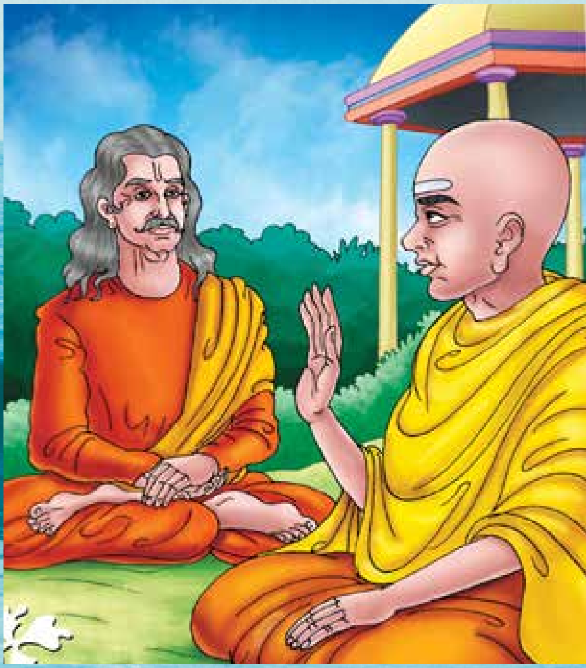
அசோகா மக்களிடம் நல்ல வழிகளை பின்பற்ற ஆணையிட்டார்.

அசோகாவின் கதை: சிறுவர்களின் சிறப்பு பக்கம்

✒ சம்பத்

சாரணாத்தில் 50 அடி உயரமுள்ள கல்தூணை நிறுவினார். அமைதியை நிலைநாட்ட மந்திரிகளை அமைத்தார். மகதா, நாலந்தாவில் சிறந்த பல்கலைக் கழகங்களை அமைத்தார்.

சாலையில் மரங்களை வளர்த்தார். கிணறுகள் அமைத்தார். இலவச மருத்துவமனைகளை நிறுவினார். மக்கள் மகிழ்ந்தனர். கடைசி காலத்தில் சன்யாசம் அடைந்து தக்ஷாஷிலாவிற்கு சென்றார். 232 கி.பி. அசோகா உயிர் நீத்தார். அவர் போதனைகள் இன்றும் போற்றப்படுகிறது.



Owned, Published & Printed by INDIRA SRIVATSA,
Printed at AATHI LAKSHMI GRAPHICS,
14/33, Sivan Koil Cross Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600024 &
Published from E 002, Premier Grihalakshmi Apartments,
Elango Nagar South, Virugambakkam, Chennai - 600092.
EDITOR: INDIRA SRIVATSA

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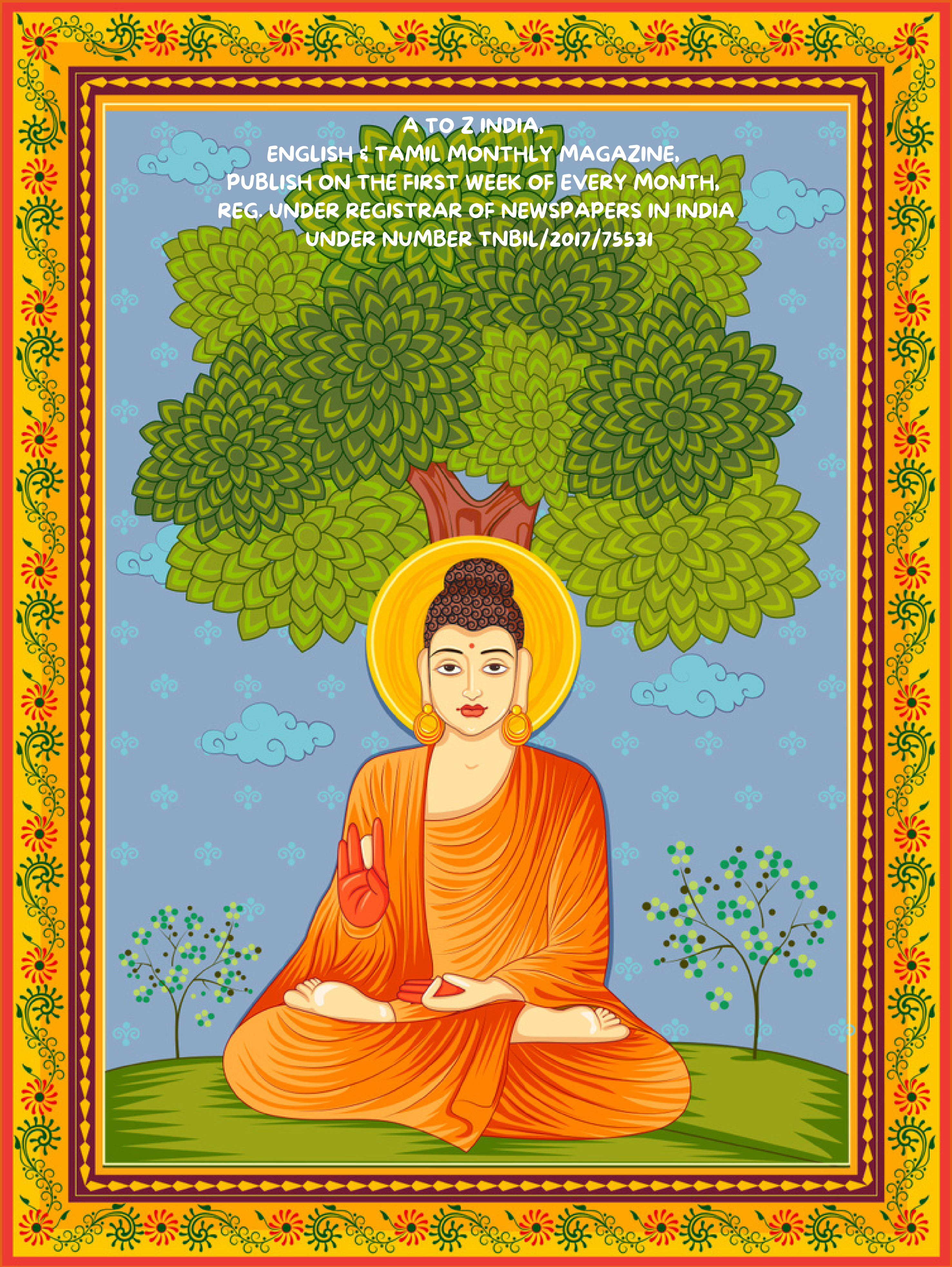
A TO Z INDIA,
ENGLISH & TAMIL MONTHLY MAGAZINE,
PUBLISH ON THE FIRST WEEK OF EVERY MONTH,
REG. UNDER REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS IN INDIA
UNDER NUMBER TNBIL/2017/75531